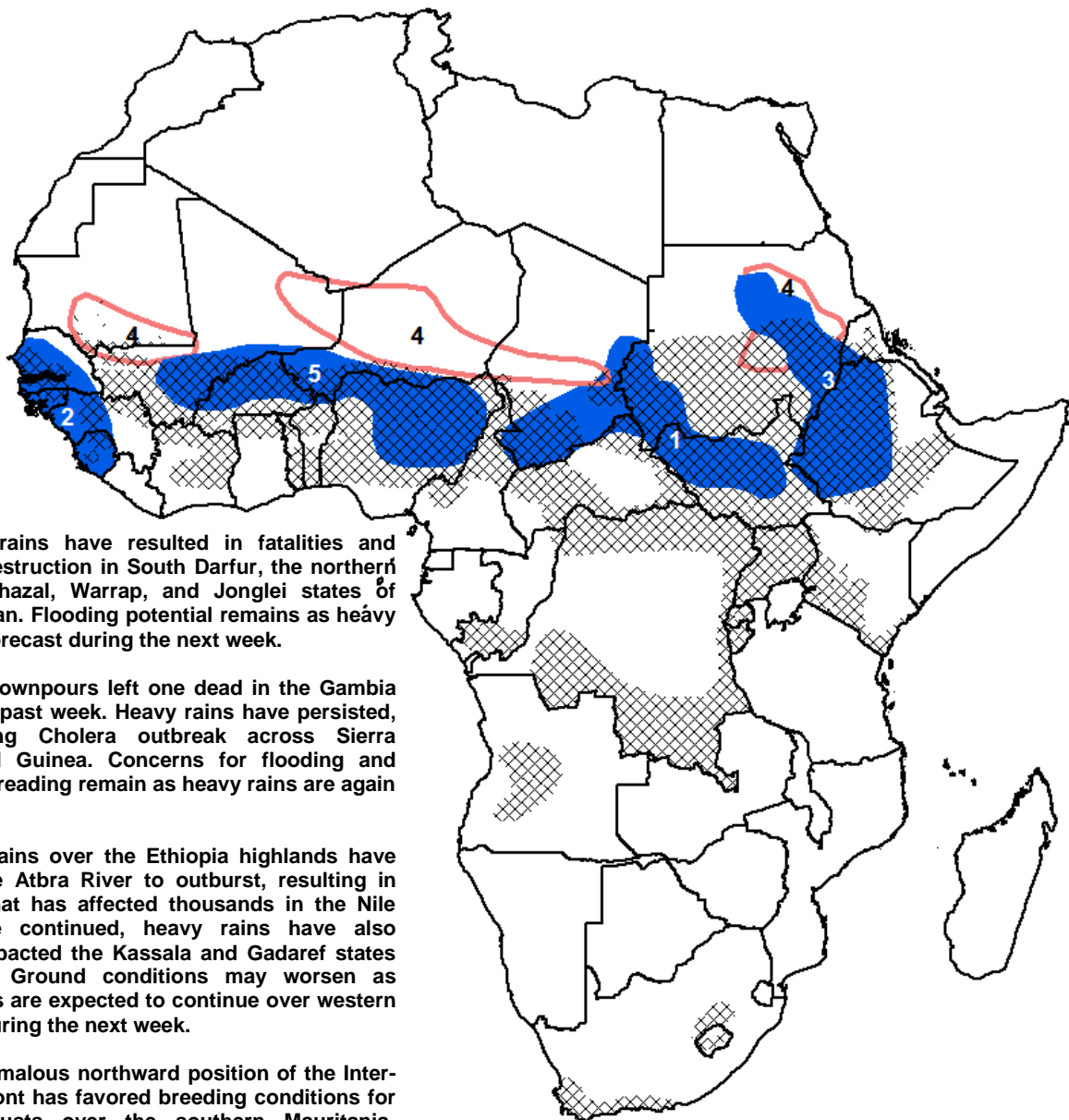


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET September 6 – September 12, 2012

- Continuous, heavy rains have resulted in flooding across many regions of West Africa and eastern Africa.
- The increasing number of immature adults heightens the risk for potential desert locust outbreak.



1) Heavy rains have resulted in fatalities and massive destruction in South Darfur, the northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, and Jonglei states of South Sudan. Flooding potential remains as heavy rains are forecast during the next week.









2) Heavy downpours left one dead in the Gambia during the past week. Heavy rains have persisted, exacerbating Cholera outbreak across Sierra Leone and Guinea. Concerns for flooding and Cholera spreading remain as heavy rains are again forecasted.

3) Heavy rains over the Ethiopia highlands have caused the Atbra River to outburst, resulting in flooding that has affected thousands in the Nile River. The continued, heavy rains have also already impacted the Kassala and Gadaref states of Sudan. Ground conditions may worsen as heavy rains are expected to continue over western Ethiopia during the next week.

4) The anomalous northward position of the Inter-Tropical front has favored breeding conditions for desert locusts over the southern Mauritania-western Mali border, central Niger-eastern Mali, Chad, and east-central Sudan. The continuation of above-average rainfall during September could lead to locust outbreak across many regions.

5) Above-average rains over the past few weeks have led to the overflowing of the Niger River, resulting in deaths and impacting a large number of residents near Niamey of Niger. Additional rains could exacerbate the ground conditions.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

	September Cropped Areas
	Favorable
	Somewhat Favorable
	Flooding
	Short-term Dryness
	Drought
	Improving Drought
	Potential Locust Outbreak

Wetness persists across West Africa.

An analysis of the rainfall anomalies indicates wetter than average conditions across the Sahel and southern Sahara regions over the past thirty days (**Figure 1**). This was partially attributed to the anomalous northerly position of the Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) and stronger than average on-shore flow, which brought abundant rains across many regions. Thirty-day rainfall surpluses in excess of 100 mm were observed over western Senegal, western Guinea, southern Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and portions of Nigeria. In Niger, the observed wetness has enhanced environmental conditions for locust outbreak and migration. In contrast, rainfall deficits recorded over the Gulf of Guinea regions, including southern Guinea, Liberia, southern Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana. Meanwhile, heavy rains continued throughout the western portions of West Africa, resulting in flooding and fatalities over the Gambia and many regions of Nigeria during the past week. The continuation of oversaturation is feared to potentially enhance waterborne disease outbreak across West Africa.

The well-distributed rains have provided favorable soil moisture across much of West Africa as indicated in the Soil Water Index (SWI) during the third dekad (10-day period) of August (**Figure 2**). Although the sufficient moisture conditions are generally beneficial to cropping activities, an excess of moisture could also destroy crops and ultimately reduce yields.

For next week, there is a high probability for heavy rains to continue across West Africa, with the highest amounts forecasted over portions of Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Liberia, and coastal Nigeria. Moderate to locally heavy rains are expected over southern Mauritania, central Mali, and western Niger during the next week.

Above-average rainy days observed over eastern Africa.

During the past week, above-average rains continued over western Ethiopia, eastern Sudan, and South Sudan. The continued heavy rains over the Ethiopian highlands have exacerbated the ground conditions along downstream locations of eastern and northeastern Sudan. Heavy rains also fell over South Darfur of Sudan, leaving fatalities and destroyed houses. Further south, moderate to locally heavy rains were recorded over the flood-prone areas of South Sudan, worsening ground conditions in the region. The observed wetness can be partially explained by above-average rain frequency over eastern Africa over the past thirty days (**Figure 3**). The continuation of seasonal rains should favor crop development throughout the remainder of the June-September season. For next week, heavy rains are expected over western Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Darfur, potentially resulting in flooding and exacerbating the spreading of waterborne diseases such as Malaria.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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